**Past perfect continuous/ Past continuous**

**3.Past perfect continuous**

**Form:** Had + been + present participle ( V+ ing)I **had been** **watching**

**Use:** Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window.

The sun was shining, but the ground was wet. It **had been raining**.

It was not raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had**

**been raining** before.

* The past perfect continuous is used for activities that began before a point of time in the past and were still continuing at that point of time.
* Last summer, Josh **had been renovating** his house for two years. (*He started before last summer; he was still renovating*.)
* To show how long something had been happening before something else happened.
* We **had been playing** tennis for about half an hour *when it started to rain heavily*.

**REMARK**: Some verbs (know, like, …) are not normally used in the continuous:

We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (**NOT** *had been knowing*)

**PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS Vs. PAST PERFECT**

* To talk about the **continuity** or **duration** of a situation/activity. → To talk about the **completion** of a

I **had been working** hard, so I felt that I deserved a holiday. situation or its **effects**.

I **had been travelling** for about 36 hours.I **had worked** hard, and the report was now

finished.

**PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS Vs. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

* We refer to the present. → We refer to the point of time in the past.

I **have been practicing** since this morning. At 11 o’clock I **had been practicing** for two

(*I am still practicing*) hours. (*I began at 9 and at 11 I was still*

*practicing. but not now*)

***Let’s Practice 1*: Put the verb into the past continuous, the past perfect or the past perfect continuous.**

1. It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours …………………… a party. (have)
2. Sue was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. She …………………………. (run)
3. When I arrived, Kate …………………….. (wait) for me. She was annoyed because I was late and she ……………………………… (wait) for a long time.
4. I was sad when I sold my car. I …………………………… (have) it for a very long time.
5. We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. We ………………………… (travel) for more than 24 hours.

***Let’s practice 2*: Use the present perfect continuous or the past perfect continuous**

1. For more than two years I (try)…………………….. to get permission to extend my house.
2. How long (they live) ………………………..………………… next door to you?
3. For several years now, Glasgow (organize) ………………………………………..……festivals to celebrate the cultures of other countries. This year the focus is on Sweden.
4. When I got home, water (leak) ………………………..………… through the roof.

4.Past Continuous

⮚Form: was/were + ing. Examples:  
•You were studying when she called.  
•Were you studying when she called?  
•You were not studying when she called.  
⮚Uses of the Past Continuous•Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.  
✓I was watching TV when she called.  
•You can also use a specific time as an interruption: Last night at 6 PM, I was eating dinner.  
•When you use the Past Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.  
✓I was studying while he was making dinner.  
•In English, we often use a series of parallel actions to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the  
past: When I walked into the office, several people were busily typing, some were talking on the phones, and he boss was yelling directions.  
•The Past Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past. The concept is very similar to the expression "used to"  
but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb  
+ ing." Example: She was always coming to class late.